



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,769	08/05/2003	Todd W. Goforth	IGT1P095/P-813	1651
22434	7590	12/07/2006	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP				KARKHANIS, AASHISH
P.O. BOX 70250				
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250				
				ART UNIT
				PAPER NUMBER
				3714

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/635,769	GOFORTH ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Aashish Karkhanis	3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/22/03, 2/14/05.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Best (U.S. Patent 4,445,187).

Regarding Claims 1 and 12, Best discloses a gaming machine including one or more speakers (fig. 1, elem. 25), a master gaming controller (col. 3, lins. 50 – 51), and a digital sound system including at least one memory unit storing data, wherein said data comprises one or more wave files, one or more sets of wave table data, or both, and a digital signal processor configured to produce audio output for said one or more speakers, wherein said digital signal processor is adapted to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of generating original audio output and modifying existing sound files (col. 3, lins. 48 – 54; where an audio system contains memory for storing audio files and a digital-analog converter for sound reproduction and editing).

Regarding Claims 2, 11 and 17, Best discloses an apparatus including a central processing unit master gaming controller (col. 4, lins. 28 – 32), a programmable logic device event sequencer separate from and connected to said central processing unit (col. 4, lins. 42 – 55; where cueing unit may be programmable to track different audio

files depending on a specific application or use as is well known and established in the art), and a digital signal processor adapted to generate and control digital output, said digital signal processor being separate from and connected to said programmable logic device, wherein said programmable logic device is interposed between said central processing unit and said digital signal processor, such that said digital signal processor is unable to communicate directly to said central processing unit, and wherein said programmable logic device converts instructions from said central processing unit to instructions that can be executed by said digital signal processor (col. 4, lins. 28 – 32; col. 4, lins. 43 – 55; where a scheduling unit is a master controller, a cueing unit is an event sequencer, and a digital-analog converter is a digital signal processor which takes instructions from a cueing unit).

Regarding Claims 3 – 6, 13 – 14 and 18, Best discloses gaming machine wherein said digital signal processor is configured to alter musical or tonal parameters while a sound file is playing, is configured to synthesize music in real-time (col. 4, lins. 8 – 15; where generic digitized audio may include music as is notoriously well known and established in the art), and is configured to provide audio output tailored to a player currently using the gaming machine, wherein said audio output is tailored by at least one or more parameters selected from the group consisting of language selection, gender selection, accent selection, and style selection (col. 6, lins. 9 – 18).

Regarding Claims 7 – 9, Best discloses a gaming machine wherein said digital signal processor is configured to recognize speech used by a player at or near the gaming machine, wherein said digital sound system further comprises a microphone, as

well as speech recognition logic implemented on the digital signal processor (col. 6, lins. 9 – 18).

Regarding Claim 9, Best discloses gaming machine wherein said digital sound system comprises additional memory for storing audio processing algorithms for execution on the digital signal processor (col. 4, lins. 48 – 55; where data stored in a cue table is used to guide editing of audio information).

Regarding Claim 10, Best discloses a gaming machine wherein said event sequencer is installed in a manner that prevents the digital signal processor from effecting operation of the master gaming controller (col. 4, lins. 28 – 32; col. 4, lins. 43 – 55; where a cueing unit controls a digital signal processor and a digital signal processor is not directly connected to a master gaming controller processor).

Regarding Claims 15 – 16 and 19 – 20, Best discloses an apparatus wherein said programmable logic device includes an event sequencer (col. 4, lins. 28 – 32) and wherein said central processing unit includes a master gaming controller (col. 4, lins. 43 – 55).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 4,305,131: Game Audio system.

U.S. Patent 4,569,019: Audio output circuitry.

U.S. Patent 4,770,416: Audio output circuitry.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aashish Karkhanis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2774. The examiner can normally be reached on 0800-1630 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ARK



**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**